

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Gwen Moore today announced that the City of Milwaukee was awarded an environmental justice grant to establish a training program that will increase residents' awareness about the environmental impacts of urban populations on water in Milwaukee. The City of Milwaukee, one of forty grant recipients receiving approximately \$20,000 each from the Environmental Protection Agency, is expected to use the funds towards addressing key environmental and public health issues.

“One of my favorite things about living in Milwaukee is that we live on one of the most beautiful freshwater lakes in the world, the source of our drinking water and a great recreational resource,” said Rep. Moore. “But if citizens don’t know how much of what we do on land directly impacts our water, then our water and our lake will suffer as a result. I hope that this Environmental Justice grant will help the City of Milwaukee spread the word and open people’s eyes to the impact that we have on our area water.”

The City of Milwaukee will use the grant towards environmental education and implementation of best practices on storm water management and water conservation while also increasing knowledge and understanding about the impact of water issues on public health in Milwaukee. In addition, the training will be provided in English, Spanish, Hmong and Lao languages to ensure every member of the community has an opportunity to be educated. Additionally, a group of 15 resident Peer Educators will be formed who will facilitate 10 educational sessions in local schools, neighborhood based organizations and faith based organizations.

In awarding nearly \$800,000 in grants the EPA expects grant recipients to use the money to create healthy, sustainable communities through dozens of local projects aligned with EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson’s top five priorities—improving air quality, managing chemical risks, cleaning up hazardous-waste disposal sites, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting America’s water.

Financial assistance under the environmental justice small grants program is available to all nonprofit organizations designated by the IRS or recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located; city, township, county government and their entities; or federally-recognized Native American tribal governments. The City of Milwaukee was the only grant recipient in the state of Wisconsin.

In the 15 years since initiating the environmental justice small grants program, EPA has awarded more than \$20 million in funding to assist 1,130 community-based organizations and local and tribal governments.

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